

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-4 and 7-9 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1-4 and 7-9 can be found at least at Figure 5. Thus, no new matter is added.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Japanese Publication No. 07-175429 to Kejiro in view of Japanese Publication No. 08-095532 to Tatsuhiko. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-14 would not have been rendered obvious by Kejiro in view of Tatsuhiko. Neither of the applied references teaches or suggests "a display controller that, before the externally-supplied display signal is supplied to the driver, applies a mask signal to the display signal at the timing detected by said timing detection device to always display during display operations the same color at pixels in the peripheral region regardless of color indicated for the pixels in the peripheral region by the externally supplied display signal," as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claims 2-4 and 7-9.

As acknowledged by the Office Action, Kejiro does not teach or suggest this feature. Further, Tatsuhiko does not remedy the deficiencies of Kejiro. Tatsuhiko discloses a light shielding part 25 that is formed by outputting selectively the liquid crystal signal while using a data enabling signal (Tatsuhiko, Abstract). In other words, the pixel part of Tatsuhiko, which does not output a liquid crystal driving signal, will be in a protection from light condition (Tatsuhiko, paragraph [0049]). Thus, Tatsuhiko does not display during display operations the same color at pixels in the peripheral region regardless of color indicated for the pixels in the peripheral region by the externally supplied display data, as recited in the independent claims.

Further, Tatsuhiko discloses a controller 37, as shown in Figs. 2 and 8 of Tatsuhiko, that outputs enable signals to the signal side drive circuit 38 simultaneously with the input of display

data from the display data output controller 63. Thus, Tatsuhiko does not disclose "a display controller that, before the externally-supplied display signal is supplied to the driver, applies a mask signal to the display signal ... to always display during display operations the same color at pixels ...," as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent claims 2-4 and 7-9.

Thus, for at least these reasons, claims 1-4 and 7-9 are patentable over Tatsuhiko and Kejiro. Further, claims 5, 6 and 10-14, which variously depend from claims 1-4 and 9, are also patentable over Tatsuhiko and Kejiro for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claims 1-4 and 9, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Randi B. Isaacs
Registration No. 56,046

JAO:RBI/hs

Date: February 2, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>
--